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REMARKS

In the Official Action, claims 1-24 were rejected. By this response, claims 3, 16, and 20-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 1, 2, 11, 17, and 19 have been amended, and new claims 25-27 have been added. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-19, and 25-27 will be pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

In the Official Action, the specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner stated that:

Correction of the following is required: a first engaging member, first securing portion, second engaging portion, a second securing portion, third engaging portion, and third securing portion.

The claims have been amended in light of the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Official Action, claims 1-10, 12-18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Raffman, U.S. Patent No. 2,878,389. Claims 3, 16, and 20-24 have been cancelled by this response. In addition, claims 1, 2, and 17 have been amended by this response.

Anticipation under section 102 can be found only if a single reference shows exactly what is claimed. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985). For a prior art reference to anticipate under section 102, every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference. *In re*

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Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). In order to maintain a proper rejection under section 102, a single reference must teach each and every element or step of the rejected claim. *Atlas Powder v. E.I. du Pont*, 750 F.2d 1569 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-15, and 17-18 are not anticipated because the Raffman reference does not show all of the recited features of the claims. Some of the recited features of amended independent claim 1 that are not disclosed by the Raffman reference are:

a first and a second catch member moveably secured to the chassis, wherein the first catch member is disposed on the interior of a first sidewall of the chassis to secure the first latch member and the second catch member is disposed on the interior of a second sidewall of the chassis, opposite the first sidewall, to secure the second latch member.

The Raffman reference discloses a pair of slidable locks 74. *See Raffman*, col. 4, lines 58-63. The Raffman reference also discloses latch projections 90 adapted to cooperate with the slidable locks 74 to secure a cover 37. *See Raffman*, col. 5, lines 12-24. Each slidable lock 74 has a locking hooked 77 adapted to slide over a latch projection 90. *See Raffman*, col. 5, lines 16-24. However, the locking hooks 77 are disposed on the exterior of the cassette 23, not on the interior. Furthermore, the slidable locks 74 are both disposed on the edge 72 of the casing or body. *See Raffman*, col. 4, lines 54-63.

Therefore, neither of the slidable locks 74 is disposed on the interior of a sidewall or on a sidewall opposite the other slidable lock 74. Therefore, the Raffman reference does not disclose all of the recited features of amended claim 1. Thus, the Raffman reference does not anticipate amended independent claim 1, or claims 2, 4-10, and 12-15, which depend therefrom.

Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form and claims 17 and 18 now depend from claim 19. As claim 19 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, the rejection

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under 35 U.S.C. 102 over the Raffinan reference is believed moot. Finally, claims 20-24 also have been cancelled by this response. Therefore, the rejection of claims 20-24 also has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-15, and 17-18 is respectfully requested.

Second Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Official Action, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Murphy, U.S. Patent No. 6,068,307. As discussed above, claims 3, 16, and 20-24 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 1, 2 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, and 16-18 are not anticipated because the Murphy reference does not disclose all of the recited features of the claims. Some of the recited features of amended independent claim 1 that are not disclosed by the Murphy reference are:

a first and a second catch member moveably secured to the chassis, wherein the first catch member is disposed on the interior of a first sidewall of the chassis to secure the first latch member and the second catch member is disposed on the interior of a second sidewall of the chassis, opposite the first sidewall, to secure the second latch member.

The Murphy reference discloses a single latch release 318 having a rear wall 319. See Murphy, col. 8, lines 42-47, Fig. 11. The Murphy reference does not disclose a second latch release 318. Furthermore, the latch release 318 is disposed on the exterior of a computer, the latch release is not disposed on the interior of a first sidewall of a computer. Therefore, the Murphy reference does not disclose all of the recited features of amended independent claim 1. Thus, the Raffinan reference does not anticipate amended independent claim 1, or claims 2, 4-10, and 12-15 which depend therefrom.

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Independent claim 16 has been cancelled by this response. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form and claims 17 and 18 now depend from claim 19. Claim 19 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over the Murphy reference, and claims 20-24 have been cancelled by this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, and 16-18 is respectfully requested.

First Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raffman. Claims 11 and 19 have been amended. Claims 11 and 19 are patentable because the Raffman reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the recited features of the amended claims. For example, some of the recited features of claim 19 that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Raffman reference are:

a first surface configured for sliding engagement with the first latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis *when the securing member is disposed on a first side of the chassis;*

and

a third surface configured for sliding engagement with the second latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis *when the securing member is disposed on a second side of the chassis, opposite the first side.*

Therefore, claim 19 is patentable over the Raffman reference. For similar reasons, claim 11 also is patentable over the Raffman reference. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Second Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy. Claims 11 and 19 have been amended. Claims 11 and 19 are patentable

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because the Murphy reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the recited features of the amended claims. For example, some of the recited features of claim 19 that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Murphy reference are:

a first surface configured for sliding engagement with the first latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis *when the securing member is disposed on a first side of the chassis;*

and

a third surface configured for sliding engagement with the second latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis *when the securing member is disposed on a second side of the chassis, opposite the first side.*

Therefore, claim 19 is patentable over the Murphy reference. For similar reasons, claim 11 also is patentable over the Murphy reference. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Third Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Raffman. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled by this response. Claim 15 depends from amended independent claim 1. For the reasons provided above, neither the Murphy or the Raffman references, either alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the recited features of independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over the cited references.

New Claims

New claims 25-27 have been added by this response. Claims 25-27 do not add new matter and are fully supported throughout the specification. Consideration and allowance of new claims 25-27 are respectfully requested.

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Attachment

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 16, 2002



Ralph A. Graham
Reg. No. 47,607
Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 16, and 20-24 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11, 17, and 19 as follows:

1. A protective assembly for a computer system, comprising:

a chassis;

an access panel;

a first and a second latch member secured to the access panel; and

a first and a second catch member moveably secured to the chassis,
wherein the first catch member is disposed on the interior of a first
sidewall of the chassis to secure the first latch member and the
second catch member is disposed on the interior of a second
sidewall of the chassis, opposite the first sidewall, to secure the
second latch member, the first and second catch members being
biased to a first position on the chassis in a first direction to secure
the first and second latch members and being movable in a second
direction to release the first and second latch members; and

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a first and a second operator, wherein the first operator is disposed on the exterior of the first sidewall and secured through the chassis to the first catch member and the second operator is disposed on the exterior of the second sidewall, the first and second operators being adapted to move the first and second catch members in the second direction to release the first and second latch members.

2. (Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the latch member includes a first engaging portion and a first securing portion and the catch member includes a second engaging portion and a second securing portion, the first and second engaging portions being adapted to enable the first securing portion engage the second securing portion to displace the catch member, the first and second securing portions being adapted to enable the second securing portion capture the first securing portion.

11. (Amended) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the each catch member includes a third engaging portion and a third securing portion symmetrical about an axis with the second engaging portion and the second securing portion, the second securing portion being adapted to capture the first securing portion of the first latch member when the catch member is disposed on the first sidewall of the chassis and the third securing portion being adapted to capture the first securing portion of the second latch member when the catch member is disposed on the second sidewall of the chassis.

17. (Amended) The first member as recited in claim ~~19~~16, wherein the first surface is angled.

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19. (Amended) ~~The first member as recited in claim 18, the first member further comprising~~ A securing member for securing an access panel having a first and a second latch extending therefrom to a chassis, the securing member comprising:

a first surface configured for sliding engagement with the first latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis when the securing member is disposed on a first side of the chassis;

a second surface configured to restrict movement of the first latch when the securing member is disposed on a first side of the chassis;

a third surface configured for sliding engagement with the second latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis when the securing member is disposed on a second side of the chassis, opposite the first side; and

a fourth surface configured to restrict movement of the second latch when the securing member is disposed on second side of the chassis, the third surface and fourth surface being oriented symmetrically about an axis with the first surface and second surface.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) A method of assembling an electronic system, comprising:

providing a plurality of interchangeable catch members adapted to be selectively disposed on the interior of opposite sidewalls of a chassis to capture a latch member extending from an access panel;

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providing a plurality of manual operators adapted to be disposed on the exterior of the chassis and securable to the plurality of catch members through an opening in the chassis;

providing a chassis having a first opening through a first sidewall and a second opening through a second sidewall opposite the first sidewall;

securing one of the plurality of catch members to one of the plurality of manual operators through the first opening in the first sidewall; and

securing a second of the plurality of catch members to a second one of the plurality of manual operators through the second opening in the second sidewall.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising: disposing a biasing member within each of the catch members.

27. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, comprising aligning each of the catch members with a guide rail adapted to extend into each catch member.